orm of horns and skulls were recovered. Uiother person named by the two oflen-lers is absconding antf has °ot been :rrested yet. The investigation in the natter is still continuing and the case S presently with the Delhi Police. The nfended destination of these wildlife rticles is not yet known.

(c) Yes, Sir.

plerscca Organised by Animal Wei-fars Bo23*d off IisdRa

15. DR. SHRIKANT &AMCHAN-«A JICHKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be leased to state:

(a) whether a Cbsference organised y the Animal Welfare Board of India as recently held in Delhi;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome E the Conference;

(c) what were in general the rccom-endations of the conference; and

(d) what does Government propose to > with regard to the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF *m* MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT ND FORESTS fSHRI KAMAL \TH): (a) Yes, Sir. Animal Welfare >ard of India organised a Seminar on nimal Welfare on 30-11-94 and 2-94.

(b) and (c) It the seminar, following ire the main recommendations:—

(i) Mobilise public opinion and generate awareness.

(ii) Assisting setting up of shelter homes.

(iii) Stopage of Dog killing and adopting immunisation end sterlisa-tion.

fiv) Setting up Mobile Courts for ji'.ick disposal *rf* ea^es.

(iv) Animal Welfare to ba linked with Integrated Rural Development and sustiabie agriculture practices

(vi) Prevention to Cruelty to Animl Act, 1960 to be revised to make it more effective.

(d) The recommendations will be examined by the Governmentt of India on receipt of the same formally rom **b«* Animal Welfare Board of India.

Tiger Popnlatfc?: ta Wfld Life Sanctuary and Melghat Saictewy in Maharashtra

\^c SHRT G. PATHAPA REDDY:

DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Tigers in the Tadabo Wild Life Sanctuary in Chandarpur District and Melghat Sanctuary in Amravati District, both of Maharashtra,-

(b) what step? are besing taken to in-crease the Tiger population; and

(c) how many cases of poaching were reported in these Sanctuaries during the last, three years; and what is the action taken on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The estimated tiger population as per 1993 census in Tadoba National Park and Melghat Tiger Sanctuary are 14 and 72 respectively. The boundary of Melghat Tiger Sanctuary has been redefined and ther© are about 50 Tigers in the same now.

(b) Intensive management practices under the Project Tijrer Scheme is ex pected to result in improvement in Tiger populaton, its'prey base and its habitat.

(c) The Kate Government of Malta-* rashtra has reported eleven cases of poaching in Melghat Tiger Sanctuary and none in Tadoba National Park during the last three years. Nine offenders have been prosecuted in the Court of Law..

Setting up Chemical. Zone in Umred Telssll, Nagpur

17. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

DR.. SHR1KANT RAM* CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRON-MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Environ mental Clearance has been taken by the Government of Maharashtra for creating a Chemical Zone in Umred Tehsil of Nagpur District or thereabout;

(b) if so, what aire the conditions of the said clearance or permission; and

(c) if not, what action is being; taken on the Governments decision to set up the Chemical Zone in the catchment area of irrigation projects and proxmity to forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OP THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No such environmental clearance has been given by the Central Government.

(c) Before according environmental clearance to development projects, due consideration k given to protect the catchment and forest areas.

' Use of Fairest *htmi* by Industries

18. SHRI RAJNI RANIAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to allow industry to use forest land for commercial plantation; if so, details thereof;

(b) whether the interest of tribal peo ple, living in such forests have been taken care of, if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) In view of the increasing threat of encroachment upon the large quantum of degraded forest land in the country and the need to afforest it urgently so as to expand green cover, inhibit encroachment and halt soil denudation and also to meet fuel and fodder needs and thereby to reduce pressure on existing natural forests and protected areas, the Govi eminent is considering to involve industry in afforestation of severely degraded areas in partnership with State Forests Development corporations so as to augment the efforts and the financial resources available for afforesation schemes of the Central and Statae Governments, NGOs and People's Cooperatives.

(b) The scheme under consideration will I[58] finalised only after careful assessment of various issue involved and ensuring protection of traditional rights and concessions being enjoyed by the rural and tribal communis nities. As envisioned, the scheme is intended to benefit rural and tribal communities . by increasing the availability of biomas, fuelwood and fodder, and also opening up avenues for rural employment generation.

(c) Does not arise.

Encroachment of Forest Land

19. SHRI RAINI RAN J AN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5 per cent of 35 million hectares of degraded forest land. in the .country- has been encroached upon;